

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

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TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: WAVE OF OCCUPATIONS BEGINNING TO SUBSIDE

REF: BA 417 2

1. SUMMARY: THE WAVE OF OCCUPATIONS OF PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENTS APPEARS TO BE ON THE WANE. WHILE SOME NEW OCCUPATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE, SOME INSTITUTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN VACATED BY OCCUPIERS, AND THE JUSTICIALISTA MOVEMENT HAS ISSUED A STRONG CALL FOR THE CESSATION OF SUCH INCIDENTS. OTHER SECTORS OF THE POPULACE AS WELL AS THE CONGRESS HAVE EXPRESSED APPREHENSION AND DISAPPROVAL OF THE OCCUPATIONS. HIGH POINT OF THESE DISORDERS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REACHED JUNE 14 WITH FORCED RESIGNATION OF CAMPORA APPOINTEE, WHICH OUGHT TO HAVE TRIED GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERABLE PATIENCE. HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT IS USING NON- OFFICIAL CHANNELS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO END OCCUPATIONS SO AS TO AVOID IMAGE OF REPRESSION. END SUMMARY.

2. WEAK, ALMOST NONEXISTENT GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO WAVE OF INSTITUTIONAL OCCUPATIONS ENCOURAGED EVEN MORE SIT- INS, ALL ALONG SAME LINES REPORTED REFTEL. VIOLENCE WAS PRESENT DURING A FEW TAKEOVERS ALTHOUGH GREAT MAJORITY WERE PEACEFUL. SOME BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY THEIR OWN PERSONNEL TO PREEMPT TAKEOVERS BY OUTSIDE ELEMENTS. HOWEVER, MANY PUBLIC ESTABLISH-
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MENTS SUCH AS THE CUSTOMS, COMMERCE EXCHANGE, NATIONAL BANK AND MERCHANT MARINE HAVE ALREADY BEEN VOLUNTARILY DISOCCUPIED AND OCCUPIERS ARE CONTINUING TO DEPART FROM OTHER BUILDINGS. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT A REACTION TO THE OCCUPATIONS IS FORMING, AND PROTESTS ARE BEGINNING TO APPEAR FROM SEVERAL QUARTERS. THE UCR SENATORS HAVE EXPRESSED WORRY AT THE OCCUPATIONS AND HAVE CALLED FOR THE RULE OF LAW. A TURNING POINT MAY HAVE BEEN REACHED WHEN OCCUPIERS FORCED THE RESIGNATION OF PUBLIC WORKS UNDERSECRETARY HORACIO J. ZUBIRI, A CAMPORA APPOINTEE , ON JUNE 14.

3. RESULTS WAS THAT ALL SECTORS OF THE JUSTICIALISTA MOVEMENT, THROUGH A MESSAGE DELIVERED BY SECGEN JUAN ABAL MEDINA, HAVE CALLED ON PERONISTS PARTICIPATING IN THE OCCUPATIONS TO LEAVE BUILDINGS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN GOOD ORDER, WARNING THAT SUCH ACTIONS SERVE THE " PURPOSES OF COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY CONTINUISM." THE MINISTRY OF THE TREASURY AND FINANCE ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE WHICH STATED THAT OCCUPATIONS OF STATE ENTERPRISES " DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROCESS OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION." THERE HAS BEEN NO ATTEMPT YET TO DISLODGE OCCUPIERS BY FORCE, AND THE GOVERNMENT IS APPARENTLY HOPING THAT THE VARIOUS EXHORTATIONS PLUS SATISFACTION OF DEMANDS WILL RESULT IN A PEACEFUL EXODUS FROM OCCUPIED ESTABLISHMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, A FEW NEW OCCUPATIONS ARE STILL TAKING PLACE, ALTHOUGH AT A SLOWER RATE.

4. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT' S USE OF THE JUSTICIALISTA MOVEMENT TO PERSUADE OCCUPIERS TO DESIST IS DOUBTLESS DESIGNED TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF A DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH YOUTH ELEMENTS OF THE MOVEMENT AND THE DANGER OF HAVING TO TAKE STEPS THAT COULD BE LABELLED " REPRESSIVE." NEVERTHELESS, IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THESE NON- OFFICIAL MEASURES WILL BE ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL AND THE GOVERNMENT MAY STILL HAVE TO RESORT TO FORCE IF IT IS TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND RESPECT FOR ITS AUTHORITY. IT IS ALSO PROBABLE THAT NON- PERONIST ELEMENTS ARE FOMENTING AND USING SOME OF THE OCCUPATIONS PRECISELY TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT. IT IS EVEN MORE PROBABLE THAT THE 50 PERCENT WHO DID NOT VOTE FOR CAMPORA ARE DEEPLY DISTURBED BY THE GOVERNMENT' S WEAK REACTION TO THESE DISORDERS (WITH ITS IMPLICATION OF APPROVAL) AS WELL AS ITS RESORT SO FAR TO UNOFFICIAL PARTISAN MEANS IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL THE SITUATION. IT APPEARS THAT THE HIGH POINT OF THE OCCUPATIONS MAY NOW HAVE BEEN REACHED AND PASSED WITHOUT A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WITH THE PUBLIC FORCES. IF THAT PROVES TO BE TRUE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE ISSUE MAY BE LARGELY OVERTAKEN AS ATTENTION NOW TURNS TO THE NEXT SPECTACLE, PERON' S RETURN ON JUNE 20.
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